



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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MAD

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/791,724	01/29/97	PRYOR R	S87.506/SD59

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EXAMINER

KEMPER, M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2764

DATE MAILED: 09/03/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/791724

Applicant(s)

Pryor

Examiner

Kemper

Group Art Unit

2764

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/29/97
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Microsimulated Transactions Model" in view of Leijonhufvud, "Towards a not-too-rational macroeconomics" Souther Economic Journal.

The introduction of "Microsimulated Transactions Model" substantially teaches a method of predicting a change in an economy comprising decision makers including household, bank, government, and industry decision makers with decision rules where decision rules are modified during processing (whole document, especially pages 2-4). The introduction does not teach sending messages to processing agents.

Leijonhufvud teaches using multiprocessors for computing economic models (pages 1, 3, 4, 7) including assigning a processor a subset of agents (p 3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a multiprocessor configuration which would have included sending messages (or input and output) to the processors in the simulation described in the introduction since the computable economics as described in Leijonhufvud would have offered modeling of complex systems. It also would have been obvious to have modified decision rules by probability vectors since the probabilities would

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have described the agent's behavior as discussed in Leijonhufvud. It also would have been obvious to have grouped messages for efficiency.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

McClelland et al., patent number 5,689,650 teaches a multiprocessor network which sends messages between agents (col. 21-col. 26).

Negishi, patent number 5,444,819 teaches a system for economic prediction (abstract, summary).

Coats teaches use of expert systems in economic forecasting (whole document).

Jurik teaches the use of neural networks in economic forecasting (whole document).

4. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5357 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Kemper, whose telephone number is 703-305-9589. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30-6:00. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Trammell, can be reached at 703-305-9768.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

M. Kemper
August 28, 1998

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Kemper".

M. Kemper
Primary Examiner
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